TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
CONFERENCE CALL NOTES
March 13, 2002
CORPS OF ENGINEERS NORTHWESTERN DIVISION OFFICES – CUSTOM HOUSE
PORTLAND, OREGON

TMT Internet Homepage: http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/TMT/index.html

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1. Greeting and Introductions

The March 13 Technical Management Team conference call to update the TMT on spill operations in support of the upcoming Spring Creek Hatchery release was chaired by Rudd Turner of the Corps and facilitated by Donna Silverberg. The following is a distillation, not a verbatim transcript, of items discussed at the meeting and actions taken. Anyone with questions or comments about these minutes should call Henriksen at 503/808-3945.

2. Update on Spring Creek Hatchery Spill Operation.

Turner began by noting that the last of the screens and turbine intake extensions were installed last Saturday at Bonneville Powerhouse 2, in preparation for the arrival of the Spring Creek Hatchery fish. The release took place as scheduled on Monday, said Turner; Bonneville started passing 150 Kcfs total flow and 50 Kcfs spill shortly after 9 a.m. yesterday, as requested. By mid-afternoon, the TDG reading at the Warrendale station was 104%, at Skamania, 103.9%, both showing a rising trend, with 53.6 spill and 153 Kcfs total flow. This is the first operation we've done with all of the flow deflectors installed at Bonneville, Turner said; the project has been using a special spill pattern developed at WES, and in general, we're quite pleased with the TDG readings we've seen so far during the spill operation.

Then yesterday, the weather turned very wet, Turner said. Tributary flows and inflows picked up significantly, and we began increasing total flow and spill at Bonneville. At 6 p.m. last night, flow at Bonneville was increased to 170 Kcfs with 50 Kcfs spill; by 9 p.m., spill was increased to 70 Kcfs.

So that 20 Kcfs spike was side flows; it wasn't part of the request, said Ron Boyce. The request was for 170 Kcfs beginning this morning, Turner replied – yesterday's increase was caused by the rainfall yesterday.

Flows have picked up further since last night, Turner continued, with total Bonneville discharge increased to 200 Kcfs at 8 a.m. this morning, with 70 Kcfs spill. Spill has since been increased incrementally to its current level of 100 Kcfs. Again, said Boyce, this is beyond what was requested; these are just natural increases in flow. We can talk about that, said Turner; I'm just reporting what's been happening.

As of 10 a.m., Warrendale was showing 108-109% TDG, said Turner, Skamania, 102%, Camas/Washougal 103%. That does not reflect the 100 Kcfs spill, however, Turner said. As of 2 p.m., the TDG reading at Warrendale was 110%, Margaret Filardo reported.

As of 1 p.m, today, the accounting stood at 108 KAF above the 125 Kcfs that would normally have been provided, said Cathy Hlebvchuk. In terms of our operation over the next couple of days, the action agencies would propose to reduce total flow at Bonneville to 170 Kcfs as soon as possible, then down to 150 Kcfs by tomorrow. The Spring Creek spill operation would then cease at 8 a.m. Friday, March 15, Hlebechuk said. In response to a question from Boyce, Hlebechuk said natural flows are now falling, hence the planned reduction in flow.

So your proposal is to reduce Bonneville flow to 150 Kcfs by noon tomorrow? Boyce asked. Correct, Hlebechuk replied. And you will maintain 150 Kcfs total discharge at Bonneville until 8 a.m. on Friday? Boyce asked. Yes, Hlebechuk replied. And natural flows will have receded such that we won't be able to maintain more than 125 Kcfs after 8 a.m. on Friday? Boyce asked. That's correct, Hlebechuk replied.

Howard Schaller provided a series of field TDG readings, as well as data on water depth over the redds. With respect to the mid-channel readings, as of an hour ago, they were 113.8% and 111.8%, he said On the Washington shore, the readings are running 103.1%-103.5%; on the Oregon shore, 112.3%-112.5%. The highest-elevation redd was covered by 4.7 feet of water, he said, adding that depth-compensated TDG at the redds is below 100%.

Could we spill even more, given the fact that we have more than adequate depth compensation? Boyce asked. Bear in mind that flows are receding, replied Paul Wagner; if we increase spill while flows are falling to 150 Kcfs, we won't have that level of depth compensation any more. We're also a little concerned about the TDG readings at Warrendale, said Turner – we're edging up toward 115%.

Margaret Filardo said fish sampling has been occurring since yesterday morning; average flow was 161 Kcfs over the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. this morning, and field personnel counted 18,242 subyearling chinook past Bonneville during that period. We expect to see the passage indices pick up over the next two days, Filardo said.

Silverberg reminded the group that the next face-to-face TMT meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. tomorrow, March 14. With that, the conference call was adjourned. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.

TMT MEETING PARTICIPANTS

FEBRUARY 13, 2002

Name	Affiliation

Ron Boyce	ODFW
Scott Boyd	COE
Suzanne Cooper	BPA
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Jim Gaspard	B.C. Hydro
Richelle Harding	D. Rohr & Associates
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Chris Ross	NMFS
Howard Schaller	USFWS
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